

## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome  
Street.—MARRIAGE.WOOD'S THEATRE, Broadway, opposite the St. Nicholas  
Hotel.—THE KIDNAPER.GEORGE CHRISTY'S—OLD SCHOOL, at MINISTERS,  
BALLROOM, MUSICAL COMEDY, AC.—FIVE ACTS. OPERA HOUSE,  
Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth Street.—THE MISER  
AND THE POOR.SAN FRANCISCO MINISTERS, 25 Broadway, opposite  
the National Bank.—THE KIDNAPER.TINY PATSY'S OPERA HOUSE, 20 Broadway.—SING-  
ING, DANCING, BURLESQUES, AC.—THE FAIRY GUARDIAN.BRYANT'S MINISTERS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broad-  
way.—NEURO COMEDIES, BURLESQUES, AC.—LES MISER-  
ABLES.ROOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN MIS-  
TRESS.—BURLESQUES AND FANTASIES.BROOKLYN ATHLETIC.—ROBERT HELLER, THE GREAT  
CONJUROR.GERMANIA ASSEMBLY ROOMS, 226 Bowery.—IRISH  
NATIONAL FAIR.NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—  
Open from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M.NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN, Corner of Twenty-  
third Street and Avenue C.—EXHIBITION OF ORIGINAL  
WORKS BY LIVING ARTISTS.

New York, Tuesday, May 1, 1866.

## THE NEWS.

## EUROPE.

The steamship Hibernian, from Londonderry, April 20,  
passed Father Point yesterday evening on her voyage  
to Quebec. Her news is two days later.The German question presented a much more peaceful  
aspect, and looked brighter for Austria. Count Bismarck  
had tendered his resignation frequently, it is stated, to  
the King of Prussia, but it had not been accepted.The Reform bill was still under debate in the British  
House of Commons.The czar of Russia acted with great presence of mind  
at the moment the attempt was made on his life. The  
would-be regicide was a landholder displeased with the  
emancipation decree.A London mercantile house had suspended with  
£150,000 liabilities, and a Liverpool banking company  
was in difficulties.Consols closed in London April 20 at 86½ a 87. United  
States five-twenties, 69½. The Liverpool cotton market  
was firmer on the 20th April. Breadstuffs were  
quiet and steady. Provisions dull.

## CONGRESS.

The Reconstruction report was presented yesterday  
in both houses. In the Senate the bill and joint resolutions  
accompanying the report were ordered to be printed. The  
bill for the bridging of the Mississippi was passed. Mr.  
Trumbull offered an amendment to the Post Office Appropria-  
tion bill, providing that no person appointed by the  
President to and exercising an office to which confirmation  
by the Senate is required shall receive compensation  
until confirmed, unless he has been appointed during the  
recess of the Senate to fill a vacancy occasioned by  
death, resignation or expiration of term. During the  
discussion on this amendment Mr. Davis took occasion  
to repeat what he had said before in relation to the  
recognition by the President of a Congress formed by  
the minority of the present one and the excluded  
Senators from the South. The Senate adjourned without  
taking action on the bill or amendment.In the House the Committee on Appropriations re-  
ported a bill making appropriations to the amount of  
\$11,554,500 for the use of the Freedmen's Bureau for  
the year commencing January 1, 1866, which was made  
the special order for to-day. Mr. Stevens offered a  
substitute for his bill of December 20, to enforce  
the confiscation of the property of the enemy,  
which was ordered to be printed. It provides  
for the confiscation of all public lands in the eleven  
States that were in rebellion and their distribution  
among the freedmen; also for the seizure by the Presi-  
dent of all the property of the belligerent enemy deemed  
forfeited by the act of July, 1862, and for the repeal of  
that portion of the act of July which provides that no  
proceedings under it shall work a forfeiture of the real  
estate beyond life. The River and Harbor Improvement  
bill passed. A joint resolution declaring the constitu-  
tional relations of the State of Tennessee restored to  
practical relations with the United States was referred  
to the Judiciary Committee. The controversy  
between Messrs. Conkling and Bane was kept  
up in a series of personal explanations. A  
letter from General Fry was read, corroborating the  
assertions made by Mr. Bane in regard to Mr. Conkling's  
difficulties with the Freedmen's Bureau. A resolu-  
tion was adopted appointing a committee to investigate  
the statements of Mr. Conkling against General Fry, and  
also to examine the statements made against Mr. Conk-  
ling.

## THE CITY.

No fresh cases of cholera have been received on board  
the hospital ship Falcon since the last report. For  
deaths took place on Sunday, and Dr. Bessell reports that  
the condition of those remaining in the hospital has  
much improved. The Health Officer, Dr. Swanwick,  
calls the attention of pilots and masters of vessels to the  
fact that it is a violation of law to throw any refuse  
matter overboard inside of Sandy Hook.A delegation of citizens held a conference with the  
Sanitary Committee of the Board of Health yesterday  
afternoon for the purpose of explaining, and, if possible,  
suggesting a remedy for the escape of the foul odors  
which arise from the various gas works in this city. No  
decision was reached.A committee of five was yesterday appointed by the  
Board of Aldermen to co-operate with the committee  
from the City Council in adopting measures for the proper  
celebration of the centennial of the signing of the  
Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July. A resolution  
authorizing the Comptroller to issue "market stock" to  
the amount of \$75,000, after some debate, referred  
to the Committee on Law. Having directed the removal  
of a quantity of nitro-glycerine stored up town the  
Board adjourned to Thursday next.The Board of Common Council met yesterday and trans-  
acted considerable routine business, but the most of the  
papers were devoted to public interest. A resolution  
was adopted directing the Fire Marshal to remove the nitro-  
glycerine which is stored at the corner of 119th street  
and Third Avenue. A lengthy debate arose in reference  
to the reconstruction of the Finance Committee of the  
Board occasioned by the resignation of Messrs. Keenan  
and Kellogg at the last meeting. Mr. Pullman asserted  
that the change was brought about in order that Mr.  
Kellogg might be elected. A new committee, composed  
of Messrs. Keach, Foster and Watts, was appointed.The Aldermen Committee on Lamps and Gas were  
to have held a meeting yesterday in reference to the  
exorbitant price of gas, but failed for want of a quorum.  
At a meeting of the Street Cleaning Commission held  
at the Mayor's office yesterday a resolution was passed  
authorizing the payment of the contractors' semi-  
monthly dues.At a special meeting of the Exempt Firemen's Asso-  
ciation last evening, at Firemen's Hall, Mercer street,  
the new charter granted by the Legislature to the associa-  
tion was read. A resolution to hold a general meeting  
on the first Tuesday in June was adopted.The festival of the Apostles Philip and James will be  
celebrated to-day in the Catholic and Episcopal churches.  
The month of May being dedicated in the Catholic  
Church to the blessed Virgin, appropriate services will  
be commenced this evening in the Catholic churches,  
and continue every evening during the month.Last night the students of the Free Academy, by a  
midnight procession and funeral pageant, with speeches  
and songs, mourned the death of their former class-  
mate, and celebrated the birth of the College of the City  
of New York, the Free Academy bearing that title  
on and after this date. The ceremonies were quite in-  
teresting, and were participated in by a large assem-  
bly.The facts in a curious case of alleged seduction and  
breach of promise leaked out yesterday in the Supreme  
Court, Chambers, before Judge Clarke, on return being  
made to a writ of habeas corpus, sued out to obtain pos-  
session of a child. The parties in the suit are Mr. Joseph  
H. Barnes, a merchant of this city, and Miss Ellen  
Lawler, a prepossessing young lady of twenty. The lady  
sues the gentleman for alleged seduction and breach of  
promise, the child in question being claimed as the off-  
spring of both. Mr. Barnes is alleged to have lately mar-  
ried another young lady, so that affairs are rather com-  
plicated. On the habeas corpus matter evidence is nowbeing taken as to who is entitled to the custody of the  
child.This case of Albert Early, charged with having counter-  
feited money in his possession, was concluded yesterday  
before Commissioner Nelson, and it was proved that the  
prisoner had \$71.50 in counterfeit fifty cent stamps in  
his possession when he was arrested. He was committed  
in default of \$1,000 bail.In the case of John Piggott, which was up again yester-  
day before Commissioner Betts, in which the defend-  
ant was charged with an attempt to pass spurious fifty  
cent stamps on a conductor of the Third Avenue Rail-  
road, a further postponement was had till this morning,  
after the examination of other witnesses.The Madison Avenue bond robbery case was under  
investigation again yesterday. The evidence was mainly  
corroborative of what had previously been testified to by  
the informer Morrison, and went to implicate the pris-  
oners Clark and Dennis as having been concerned in  
the robbery.Twenty dollar bills on the First National Bank of Port-  
land, Conn., were being circulated yesterday in the city.  
There is no such bank.A fire occurred in the building No. 55 Mercer street  
yesterday forenoon. Loss \$3,300.The Rowland Laborers in the Eastern District of  
Brooklyn have struck for a shorter working period.The stock market was dull and somewhat unsettled  
yesterday till late in the afternoon, when it became  
firm, and closed with an upward tendency. Govern-  
ment bonds were quiet. Gold weakened, and closed at 125½.  
The favorable advices per last steamer from Europe  
were counterbalanced by a decline in gold yesterday,  
and trade was extremely dull again, while prices were  
all at sea. The demand for groceries was very moderate,  
but prices were without special alteration. Cotton was  
dull but unchanged. Petroleum was firm. On Chicago  
dull and dropping. Oats dull. Pork lower. Lard dull  
and heavy. Whiskey dull and nominal at previous  
figures.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Another body of Fenians retired from Eastport yester-  
day in good order. A small force of them, refusing to  
withdraw, are still operating along the border. The Eng-  
lish steamers Cordelia and Rosario had arrived at East-  
port, and the steamship Ottawa at Halifax with troops  
and ordnance stores. General Meade, who has been ill,  
is rapidly recovering. It was said that the English war  
vessels lying off Eastport are sinking torpedoes for un-  
suspecting Fenians to run upon in their future raids. A  
committee from the Fenian Circles in Philadelphia was  
appointed on Sunday to wait on Colonel O'Mahony and  
inquire about the distribution of the funds entrusted to  
his hands.The Governor has signed the bill for the increase of  
salary to the Metropolitan Police.Our correspondent at Fortress Monroe says that Jeff.  
Davis is very anxious for his trial to come off. His  
health has perceptibly failed since his incarceration, and  
it is reported that he cannot live the summer through in  
prison.A large fire occurred in New Haven yesterday morn-  
ing, originating in one of the buildings belonging to the  
New Haven Clock Company, which destroyed all of the  
company's buildings, seven in number, and eleven dwell-  
ing houses. The loss is estimated at \$200,000. Two  
hundred workmen are thrown out of employment, and  
twenty families rendered homeless.A fire occurred in Leavenworth, Kansas, on Saturday,  
destroying eight or ten buildings on Shawnee street and  
damaging property to the amount of \$25,000 or \$30,000.The Kentucky Democratic State Convention meets  
at Louisville to-day.The Jersey City rioters who were arrested on Sunday  
night and reported themselves to be residents of New  
York and members of the Junior Franklin Base Ball  
Club were committed to the county jail yesterday by  
Recorder Bartindale, of Jersey City.A German baker, named Fredericks, stabbed two mem-  
bers of his company No. 6 in Jersey City yesterday, and  
was very near being mobbed by the firemen for this  
purpose.The police question in Jersey City is still unsettled.  
The new force goes into operation to-day, but as they are  
refused the use of the city prison and the police station  
they are compelled to fit up a temporary tenement for  
these purposes.An alleged fraud in discounting bills for a firm in  
Boston has been discovered, by which the Cambridge  
Valley Bank, and other banks in Washington and Strat-  
toga counties, have suffered to the amount of sixty  
thousand dollars.Advices from New Zealand via San Francisco state  
that the natives at Opotiki are murdering all the Euro-  
peans they can capture.The flood in the Mississippi continues. Southwestern  
Louisiana is overflowed, and all efforts to stop the  
crevasses prove unavailing.Judge Darrell, of the United States Circuit Court at  
New Orleans, before whom General Canby was recently  
arraigned for contempt, has closed his court.The Cadiz Bank robbers were overhauled yesterday  
afternoon, one of them wounded and three captured.  
One escaped. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars  
were recovered.

## The Reconstruction Game of Congress.

A Revolution in the Government.

The reconstruction scheme of the joint com-  
mittee of Congress is at length before the  
country. It is a very ingenious contrivance.  
At the first glance, though rigid in some of its  
stipulations, it appears not only reasonable,  
but magnanimous in others, and is altogether  
a much milder system of treatment for Southern  
restoration than any one could have dreamed  
of, even a month ago, as likely to emanate  
from the radical "Central Directory" of Wash-  
ington.It is somewhat remarkable that the com-  
mittee do not reject the work of reconstruction  
done by the President, as involving a series of  
measures of usurpation unlawful and void. It  
is really surprising that they admit the val-  
idity of all his acts and the statesmanship of  
all his instructions in reference to the  
reorganization of the excluded States.  
But so it is. From his initial Virginia  
and North Carolina proclamations of May last down  
to this day, all the proceedings of the Execu-  
tive looking to the reclamation of the States  
delivered from the rebellion are approved and  
accepted by Congress. The processes by which  
he secured the ratification of the great constitu-  
tional amendment abolishing and interdic-  
ting slavery are considered as satisfactorily set-  
tling that question. His exceptions of leading  
rebels in his amnesty proclamation, and his in-  
structions to his provisional governors in regard  
to the debts of the rebellion, are interwoven  
in this Congressional plan. His views, too, of the  
exclusive authority of the States over the suffrage  
question are accepted; and, above all, the  
status of the late insurgent States, as  
defined in his annual message, is recognized  
as correct, to wit:—that the rebellion impaired  
their functions as States, but did not destroy them.  
Of course this decision of the joint committee involves  
the rejection of the Stevens and Sumner theory, that  
the States wrested from the insurgent govern-  
ment of Jeff Davis by force of arms are in  
the condition of unorganized territories con-  
quered from a foreign power.From the teachings of common sense, the  
successful working of President Johnson's  
policy, and the pressure of public opinion, this  
radical Congress has been constrained to reject  
the Jacobin absurdities of Stevens and  
Sumner, and to recognize the wisdom and validity of the views  
and measures of reconstruction adopted by the  
administration. So far, then, we have a capitu-  
lation of the radicals to the Executive. After  
five months of exhausting researches and labor  
this joint committee of Congress find that they  
can do nothing better than follow in the wake  
of Andrew Johnson, as the only hope of attain-  
ing their ultimate designs. Here, however, we  
reach their point of departure.The President holds that loyal members  
elected from the excluded States, as already  
reconstructed, ought to be admitted into Con-gress; but Congress pleads the necessity of  
further securities for the future, for the national  
debt and the rights of the Southern blacks.  
The addition of twenty-two Southern Senators  
and eighty Representatives to Congress from  
States warm from the late rebellion may give  
them the power, with the aid of Northern  
copperheads, to ruin the country. This is the  
plea for an indefinite term of Southern proba-  
tion, and hence it is proposed, in the shape of  
a constitutional amendment, that "until the 4th  
of July, 1870, all persons who voluntarily ad-  
hered to the late insurrection, giving it aid and  
comfort, shall be excluded from the right to  
vote for members of Congress" and Presiden-  
tial electors, and that negroes shall be  
counted for representation in the ratio of the  
number admitted to the right of suffrage.Here we get at the milk in the cocoanut.  
In the course of the late rebellion, excepting a  
few straggling resolute Union men here and  
there, the whole white population of the revolt-  
ing States was implicated in it. Such, then, is  
to be their exclusion from our federal elections  
till 1870. Then, again, their black population  
is to be counted according to the suffrage  
granted them by the States concerned. This  
strikes off one-half the members of Congress to  
which the excluded States would otherwise be  
entitled. The amendment embracing these terms  
is to be ratified by three-fourths of the Legisla-  
tures of all the States, and the Southern States  
are to shape their local laws to meet it, and  
then they may come into Congress, if their  
members elect are duly qualified in other re-  
spects.Now, let us assume that this scheme will pass  
by two-thirds of the present Congress, and that,  
whether ratified or not, it serves the purpose of  
securing to the party in power the next Presi-  
dent and the Congress elected with him, what  
then? Why, then, in all probability, on some  
pretext or other, the excluded States will still  
be kept out, until reduced to the condition of  
Ireland under England, or Poland under Rus-  
sia. The disfranchisement of a whole people,  
to begin with, inevitably leads to their indefi-  
nite exclusion from political power. This Con-  
gressional scheme of reconstruction, therefore,  
looks to a revolution in the government, be-  
ginning with the exercise of despotic powers  
over the South; but where is it to end? "Trea-  
son is a crime and traitors ought to be pun-  
ished;" but we cannot outlaw the people of  
eleven States of the Union without endang-  
ering the liberties of the other twenty-five. Let  
us watch and see how this question is treated  
in Congress, for there are in it the elements of  
a revolution.THE NEW EXCISE LAW.—There are said to be  
some ten thousand places in this city where in-  
toxicating liquors are sold. Of this number it  
is supposed that about one-half, or at least be-  
tween three and four thousand, will be sup-  
pressed under the operations of the new Excise  
law. The low groceries that exist in pesti-  
lential districts and help to nurse if not to en-  
gender epidemics will be those most affected  
by the new law. These places at present fur-  
nish a means of livelihood to perhaps twenty  
thousand of the most shiftless class of our popu-  
lation. It becomes an interesting question,  
therefore, as to what will become of this large  
number of people when they are thrown out of  
their usual employment. It should also be  
taken into consideration by those who are  
working the present temperance reformation,  
that these places are the habitual haunts of  
thousands of intemperate and idle persons who  
will become homeless if not homeless after  
these dens are shut up. The politicians of the  
city have kept these places alive by fostering  
for the votes that can be obtained there-  
from. They have been literally patent ma-  
chines from which votes are turned out to order.  
Where will these people go now? They cannot  
go to the almshouses, for there is not room  
enough. Nor should they be turned upon the  
streets to augment the army of the squalid and  
destitute. Our opinion is that the city corpora-  
tion should give them work. The public im-  
provements already contemplated will, if im-  
mediately commenced, furnish employment to  
thousands of able-bodied men who will be un-  
earthed and cast adrift by the Excise law. Give  
them a chance to work for an honest livelihood,  
and the danger of precipitating a disolute class  
of people suddenly upon the community may  
be avoided. The Sunday law will also throw  
many idle persons upon the streets and adjoin-  
ing country places on the Sabbath. Way can-  
not some practical philanthropist start the  
project of a grand people's church, whence the  
Gospel can be dispensed in a pleasing form,  
especially adapted to this class of persons?  
This may deter many from seeking immoral  
amusements on the Sabbath, and, perhaps,  
under the blessing of Providence, be the in-  
strument of producing a substantial good to  
the city.ROWDYISM IN THE SUBURBS.—Every summer  
we are called upon to report frequent cases of  
rowdiness and violence in the vicinity of the  
metropolis. It is the custom for ruffians to go  
in gangs to places around the suburbs when  
pleasure parties assemble and make assaults  
upon them, in many cases inflicting serious in-  
juries upon unoffending persons, and in every  
instance interfering with the enjoyment of  
peaceful people, many of whom are women and  
children. This business has commenced earlier  
than usual this year, and we have already had  
a foretaste of what is likely to occur as the  
summer advances. A band of scoundrels, said  
to belong to the First ward of this city, made a  
terrible onslaught upon a number of citizens  
and their dwellings in Jersey City on Sunday,  
which appears to have been undertaken in a  
most wanton and unprovoked manner. Several  
people were severely beaten and the windows  
and doors of houses broken to pieces.These raids have become so common that it  
is really not safe for any party to venture into  
the beautiful country places which surround  
the city for the purpose of recreation without  
either a good body guard of muscle men to  
protect them or a posse of police on the  
ground to deter the ruffians in their hostile in-  
tentions. It is disgraceful to this great metropolis  
that this should be true, but it is a  
fact, nevertheless. The season for outdoor  
amusements is now approaching. Picnic  
parties will soon be on the tapis. The hard  
working people of the city must have some en-  
joyment for themselves and their families, and  
they have a right to be protected from rowdy-  
ism. We hope, therefore, that the police au-  
thorities will organize some plan whereby  
such protection may be afforded and outrages  
like that which occurred in Jersey City on Sun-  
day may be rendered impossible in and around  
New York.

## France and Mexico—Who Will Pay the French Debt?

Baron Saillard has returned to Paris and has  
reported to the Emperor Napoleon the real  
condition of the Mexican empire. It will be  
remembered that the Baron was sent to Mexico  
about the time that Napoleon promised in the  
speech from the throne that he was preparing  
to withdraw the French troops. It was reported  
at the time that he carried a personal assurance  
to Maximilian that France could no longer  
afford him the material support necessary to  
keep up his empire; and it is now rendered  
probable that he was also instructed to take  
special note of the condition of the country—  
the state of parties and the temper of the people,  
with a view to giving a satisfactory answer to  
the one question:—Can the recently established  
empire stand when the French troops come  
away? He now answers this question with an  
emphatic no—reaching and declaring the con-  
clusion that has been for many months the con-  
viction of the American people, that the empire  
must depart with the power that founded it.It was important that Napoleon should have  
a definite answer to this question. France is  
at present interested in Mexico to the extent of  
one hundred and ninety millions of dollars.  
This is now the most vital interest she has in  
the land of the Montezumas. Whatever object  
may originally have been at the bottom of the  
Mexican expedition, it has now lost its im-  
portance. If an empire on this side the At-  
lantic was part of the game of European recon-  
struction, it has failed to accomplish the pur-  
pose expected, and the vital necessity now is to  
save as much as possible of the money ventured  
on it. Does Maximilian's government offer  
a possibility of ever being able to pay any por-  
tion of this hundred and ninety millions? Sail-  
lard says no. It cannot even stand alone;  
therefore of course it cannot pay. And there-  
fore Saillard's answer settles the fate of the  
empire. It has been a vast, costly experiment;  
a tremendous failure in every point of view,  
and the Emperor of France will have no more  
to do with it.But does any government offer a better  
probability to France of future repayment?  
The republic is the only one that can be counted  
upon at all, and perhaps France can make  
some arrangement with that. This financial  
point is the real secret of Dr. Druyn de Lhuys's  
desire to communicate with Juarez through the  
United States Minister at Paris. France can  
afford the republic some facilities. She can ex-  
pedite the departure of Maximilian and sim-  
plify the situation in various ways, and will,  
too, if the republic will consent to recognize  
any considerable portion of the indebtedness to  
France. Will the republic now return on these  
terms? That is the whole question; and thus  
all the Mexican turmoil resolves itself into dol-  
lars and cents and a doubtful debt at last.  
France ostensibly went to Mexico to collect  
forty millions that Mexico declared herself un-  
able to pay, and now France would be glad to  
get away with a Mexican promise to pay any  
part of the one hundred and ninety millions she  
has spent in the attempt to subdue Mexico.PUBLIC EXECUTIONS.—The "Wearing of the  
Green" has given way, for the time being, in  
Massachusetts, to another sensation, namely,  
the hanging of Green, the Malden murderer.  
Wendell Phillips, with characteristic force and  
violence, is out with a letter condemning Gov-  
ernor Bullock for sanctioning the execution of  
the assassin. It appears that the statute of  
Massachusetts in regard to capital punishment,  
like that of most States, expressly declares  
that on such trials "the degree of murder shall  
be decided by a jury." In Green's case there  
was no trial before a jury. He con-  
fessed his guilt. The judge before whom  
he appeared as a confessed criminal did not  
deem it necessary to go through the forms  
of a trial, and condemned him to death. The  
case was carried up on points of law to the  
highest legal authorities; the decision of con-  
demnation was affirmed; the late Governor  
declined to issue the necessary warrant for the  
prisoner's execution, but the present Governor  
did, and the murderer was accordingly hanged  
by the neck until he was dead. About the legiti-  
macy of this execution we will not enter into a  
discussion at this time. That the criminal de-  
served hanging, if ever a criminal did, there cannot  
be a doubt. But censure should not be withheld  
in regard to the bungling manner in which the  
work was performed. It was in reality a double  
execution. The man was twice hanged, and if  
any Massachusetts murderer deserved the  
death penalty and escaped the gallows—and  
we believe there are several—this extra execu-  
tion will help towards squaring the balance.  
Seriously, the mangling manner in which ex-  
ecutions are now conducted demands attention.  
We pass laws to prevent cruelty to animals;  
why not laws to prevent cruelty to human  
beings, especially to those who have incurred  
the penalty of death? In some foreign coun-  
tries a regular executioner is appointed. He  
holds office during good behavior, and al-  
though a not very popular personage in any  
community, he nevertheless softens the horrors  
of public executions by the adroit manner in  
which the business is performed. Here in the  
United States criminals are executed by sheriffs  
or deputy sheriffs, who are not acquainted with  
the process; and in many cases, no doubt, un-  
necessary torture is inflicted in consequence of  
their ignorance or trepidation. Why not, then,  
if the death penalty is to continue for force in  
this country, have public executions ap-  
pointed or elected in the same manner as  
sheriffs or constables? Their duties, it is to be  
hoped, will not be very onerous, but it will be  
some consolation to know that if any person is  
to be sent into eternity according to law it  
may be done in a decent and not in a cruel  
manner.

## Personal Intelligence.

Among the passengers who will sail for California to-  
day is Count Ansoff, who goes to join Colonel Bagrat  
at San Francisco. The Count will represent the Russian  
government with the great expedition, which will be  
fully under way by the 1st of June.Hon. T. J. Thurlow, of the British Legation, and Lady  
Eliza Thurlow, from Washington; A. M. De Lisle,  
of Montreal; and William Smith, of St. John, N. B., Com-  
missioners from British North America to the West  
Indies, and J. Pallares, of Cuba, are at the Brevoort  
House.

## The Kentucky Democratic Convention.

LOUISVILLE, April 20, 1866.

All the hotels are crowded with delegates to the Demo-  
cratic State Convention, which meets to-morrow,  
and promises to be the largest convention ever held in the  
State of Kentucky.

## News from Texas.

GALVESTON, April 28, 1866.

The second installation of regulars has a record.  
General Hamilton leaves to-day for San Antonio, his  
former headquarters, and will be followed by the 1st  
of June.A prospect of the crop here is reported to be very good.  
The laborers are generally working well.

## JEFF DAVIS.

His Ransom Trial—He Wishes to be  
Tried, but Prefers a General Amnesty—  
His Health Failing, &c.

OUR FORTRESS MONITOR CORRESPONDENCE.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 28, 1866.

Jeff Davis, I am told, expresses the hope that the  
newspaper rumors that he is to be brought speedily to  
trial will prove true. This, of course, may be one way  
or the other. From the outset of his imprisonment this  
has been his continual clamor, and he doubtless desires  
to prove himself too consistent in his declarations to  
seem to wish otherwise now. But it is the very decided  
opinion of most that his mind is largely and hopelessly  
exercised at present upon the subject of a general am-  
nesty which will rid him of being brought to trial at all.  
In the shadowy remoteness and uncertainty of this  
amnesty, which there can be no doubt that he would  
prefer an immediate examination and decision  
of his fate to being kept much longer in  
this cell, he is assured that he has met persons who  
sincerely and justly feel that his health is gravely  
impaired, and every inmate of his face and every  
feature of his body are now so wasted and worn  
that he is no longer the same man. He is a doctor at a  
distant point, who knew him during the  
war, and saw him a few days since for the first time  
since his capture, and he says that he has met persons  
who sincerely and justly feel that his health is gravely  
impaired, and every inmate of his face and every  
feature of his body are now so wasted and worn  
that he is no longer the same man. He is a doctor at a  
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who sincerely and justly feel that his health is gravely  
impaired, and every inmate of his face and every  
feature of his body are now so wasted and worn  
that he is no longer the same man.

## The Income Tax—Returns to Be Made To-day.

Section 119 of the Internal Revenue Law enacts that  
duties on incomes shall be levied on the 1st day of May,  
and be paid on or before the 30th of June. The assess-  
ments will be made in accordance with the amended  
law of March 3, 1865. It specifies that taxpayers shall  
furnish their schedules to the Assistant Assessors in their  
respective districts, on or before the 1st day of May. The  
Assessors are not to be obliged to send back forms, but it is the business of taxpayers to obtain them  
from their offices, fill them up and return them within the  
time specified. Any neglect or refusal to comply with  
the above regulation subjects the offender to a penalty of  
twenty-five per cent added to the amount ascertained to  
be due, and in case of fraud one hundred per cent is added.

## AMOUNT OF TAX AND DEDUCTIONS.

The income must be reckoned for the year ending  
Dec. 31, 1865, and the tax is five per cent on all sums  
between six hundred dollars and five thousand dollars,  
and ten per cent on the excess over five thousand dol-  
lars. The following deductions are permitted:—The sum  
of six hundred dollars from all incomes; all national,  
State, county and municipal taxes paid within the year,  
including the income tax paid last summer; the amount  
paid for rent, or the rental value of any homestead occu-  
pied by the taxpayer or his family, in his own right or  
in the right of his wife; the amount paid for usual or  
ordinary repairs, taking the average of the preceding five  
years.By noticing and attending to the above facts taxpay-  
ers will save themselves considerable trouble and annoy-  
ance, as the collectors are invested with full powers to  
take legal proceedings for distraint and collection.

## Board of Aldermen.

INDEPENDENT AND ITS ORIGIN.—THE  
PROPOSED ENGINE HOUSE IN BURLING SLIP—  
ISSUE OF "MARKET STOCK"—THE NITRO-GLYCERINE  
FANIC, ETC.The Board met at half-past two o'clock yesterday af-  
ternoon, President Brice in the chair.A resolution from the Board of Councilmen relative to  
the appointment of a joint committee of five members  
from each Board to take measures to ensure a proper  
celebration of the coming Fourth of July was concurred  
in by the Board.A resolution from the Board of Councilmen in favor of  
recinding the resolution previously adopted, authorizing  
the Fire Commissioners to erect an engine house on  
Burling slip, was concurred in.A resolution fixing the salary of the messenger to the  
Corporation Attorney at \$1,500 was adopted.A resolution from the Board of Councilmen authorizing  
the Comptroller to issue stock to the amount of  
\$75,000, to be known as "Market stock," was, after  
some debate, referred to the Committee on Law.A resolution from the Board of Councilmen directing  
the Fire Marshal to remove forthwith a quantity of  
nitro-glycerine stored in a building located on the north-  
east corner of 119th street and Third Avenue, was  
concurred in.On motion, the Board adjourned to Thursday afternoon  
next, at two o'clock.

## An Abandoned Child Claimed.

A LITTLE CHILD about three years of age who was  
picked up in one of the town streets on the evening  
of the 17th ult. and taken to the Lost Children's De-  
partment at Police headquarters, as published in last Sat-  
urday's Herald, has been claimed by Mrs. Robinson, living  
in Naughton, Conn. She is, seeing a description of the  
lost child in the Herald